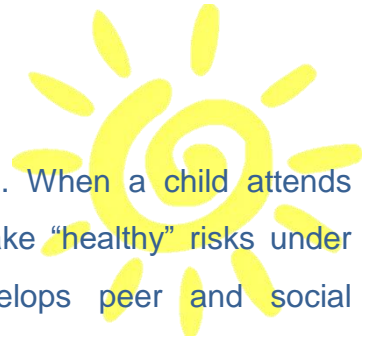


A Parents Guide to Choosing a Summer Day Camp



Benefits of the Summer Camp Experience

A summer camp experience gives a child a lifetime of memories. When a child attends summer camp it expands learning opportunities from learning to take “healthy” risks under supervision, teaches independence, improves self-esteem, develops peer and social relationships, and an opportunity to learn and apply new skills.



The Differences of Residential and Day Summer Camps

The traditional residential camp is an overnight camp that ranges in length from one-week, two to four-weeks, and eight weeks. Summer day camps provide a similar opportunity so the child can experience camp closer to home.

Day camps offer a wide range of programming and activities from sports (gymnastics, ice skating, dance, riding, etc.), science, art, education, health, wilderness training, leadership skill development, and disability related.



Where to find Day Summer Camps?

To find a summer day camp near your home, it is best to begin with your city or county parks and recreation department, YMCA's, churches, local colleges and universities, a local zoo or botanical garden, museum, or searching for “summer day camps” on the internet.

The American Camping Association (ACA) is an excellent resource to search camps by day, overnight, location, cost, and activities by visiting www.ACAcamps.org The ACA also includes information on scholarships and government-subsidized programs. Early registration is also an excellent opportunity for discounts.



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Ten Questions to ask before choosing a Summer Day Camp



When searching for a summer day camp ask the Camp Director the following Ten Questions:



1. Is the camp accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA)?

The ACA accreditation helps to ensure health, safety, program, and camp operation. If not accredited then make sure they practice health and safety policies, and information below.

2. How does the day camp hire counselors?

It should have a hiring process including a biographical background check (age verification), criminal record background clearance, driving record review, and prior employment history.

3. How are counselors prepared for injury prevention and emergency protocol?

The day camp should have a protocol policy to address this. Counselors should have current cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certificate and/or trained in first aid/Basic Life Support. Additionally have first aid kits including Epi-pens (epinephrine) with training on signs or symptoms of life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

4. If water-related activities are part of camp, ask about supervision during activity?

If children are around bodies of water such as a lake, beach, or swimming pools, counselors must be trained as water safety instructors and know how to assess the ability of each camper. Also campers should be required to use the "buddy system".

5. Review the day camp's program and be aware of any out-of-camp activity schedule.

Know each activity to make sure you allow your child to participate. In addition check if any out-of-camp field trips. If so ask they must have: a) a trip leader qualified in First Aid training and CPR; b) the counselor-in-charge to be over a certain age (usually 25); c) approval of parental permission; d) communication devices for counselors; f) use of a buddy system; and e) a lost-camper protocol that is to be followed.

6. Are campers grouped by age for activities?



7. What are the hours? Usually 9am-3pm or half day.

8. Is there extended care, before and after camp? Usually 8-9am and 3-5pm.

9. Is lunch included or children bring lunch?

10. Are parent visits encouraged? Parents should be allowed at any time!



For more information visit ProCarSeatSafety.com/SummerCampGuide.html



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